were lying in the oP«« and it resulted in an unaffordable damage to 62,000 tonnes, Sir, another 25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains belonging to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have another supplementary.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It i$ on the same question. Another 25 lakh tonnes belonging to the State procurement agencies are also lying in the open. In this perspective, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the FCI will lift the foodgrains directly from the Punjab market after procurement by the agencies. And what steps have been taken j0 reduce the stock level in order to reduce this shortage of storage capacity?

SHRI AJIT PANIA: Sir, there are several questions involved in this supplementary. Taking the first one first, as on 1st April, 1986, so far as Punjab is concerned, there were 8 million tonnes °* rice and wheat, and the covered storage capacity was 6-9 million tonnes. The gap, that is the shortfall, was i-1 million tonnes. But they are not kept in the open, but kept under the CAP system, covered area and plinth system. It was alleged that 2.5 million tonnes were kept in the open. It is not in the open. Of course, it was not in covered storage. Wherever there is a shortfall of covered storage, we keep it under the CAP system. We have taken several steps so that the stocks which have accumulated there could be quickly distributed throughout the country wherever it is required. So far as Punjab is conncerned, we have taken several steps. Regarding movement by railways, we wanted to reduce the losses and so we wanted covered wagons. We have been able to persuade the Railways t© give us covered wagons, and the movement is now taking place. The despatch by rail ex-Punjab has already crossed 9 lakhs tonnes per month. This is quite an achievement As for the allegation that it is kept in the open and people are agitated over it, all possible steps are taken. The difficulty, you will realise, js that during a period of eight weeks the entire procurement, transport and distribution take place. This time the Railways have tried to give us as rrfany wagons as possible, but all the time these are not available. But We are taking steps to take t'ne stocks out of Punjab and distribute them to various parts of the country. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is an admitted fact now that there is shortage of storage capacity with the F.C.I, in Punjab. Under the Agriculture Refinance Development Corporation Assistance Scheme, the private parties constructed godowns a number of years back and it is common knowledge that these godowrs have never been kept vacant. Every three years they were again taken by the Corporation. Here, both the F.C.l. as well as the private parties have their own grouse. The case of the F.C.L, as made out in the reply of the hon. Minister is that the private parties ask for enhanced rent and the rent has been enhanced from 33 paise to 60 paise. The grouse of the private parties is that tney «re asked to renew the contract eve-v three years. They have really to run from piliar to post every three years and it takes a lot of time and resources to get the contract renewed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any new scheme would be formulated wherein the contract would be entered into for a longer period postulating a nominal increase in rent every year.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as the new scheme is concerned, the hon. Member must be knowing that we gave an advertisement for the private parties to come forward, under certain terms and conditions, to build u^ -storage which the F.C.I, could take. Till the last date for the receipt of applications, 828 applications had been received out of which 64 applicants have not deposited any earnest money. After Jocking into these applications properly and making arrangements with the bank as regards their loan terms, we will be able to tackle the problem, not fully, but up to a certain limit.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE- I *urn* unable to catch the difference between neither being covered nor

being open. I want to get a clarification on this point, i want to understand what exactly you mean by it. ' Secondly, what is the cost per square . foot? The rent seems to have risen up J to 60 paise per square foot. What is the construction cost per square foot of such godowns? Thirdly, we all know that we are privatising the economy and, therefore, getting the go-downs built by the private sector. My question is that if the private sector can get loans from the banks to fctiild godowns, what prevents the jovernment to secure the funds from the banks and construct their own godowna?

SHRI AJIT PANJA ; Taking the last question first, I would say that the Government is also constructing godowns. The State agencies are also doing that. But the difficulty that the Government faces is regarding acquisition of land. The private parties arrange their own land and they don't have the problem of delay in the acquisition of land. So far as construction cost per square foot is concerned, it is not available with me. If the hon. Member wants, I shall certainly give it to him.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Have you got any idea about the construction cost?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister cannot afford to have any guess.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : It is-not a guess exactly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know what will be the approximate cost per square foot.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir. we have not calculated the approximate cost per square feet. But we have calculated that so far as the new type of construction which we have asked for in the advertisement is concerned, it is about 96 paise per square feet in the rural areas and we are giving them Re. 1/- as rent. So far as the urban areas are concerned, it comes to Rs. 1.04 per square feet per month for a godown and we are piving them a little over one rupee because municipal taxes are to be paid.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir, I am surprised to find that even though the cost per sq. ft. is 96 paise only, the Government is giving 60 $pais_e$ per sq. ft. per month. I would like to know from the honourable Minister when this rate of 33P p_{er} sq. ft. was fixed that is, in which year it was fixed. I would like to know one more thing. .Here it has been said that they are giving more than 60 P in certain cases. What is the maximum rent per sq. ft. after July 1984?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, from 33P to 60P is the range up to which the Zonal Manager under certain parameters laid down will fix the rent. With regard to the rent of 60P, if the General Manager finds in certain places that huge stock is coming in— as I said earlier, we have to arrange within eight weeks—he has the discretion at that time, under certain parameters, to exercise his discretion judiciously and increase the rent, If necessary.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI . Sir, earlier it was 33P and it has now been increased to 60P. I would like to know when this rate of 33P was fixed.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, it has not been increased to 60P. As I explained earlier, the rate is 33P at the lowest level and at the highest it goes up to 60P and the rate is fixed within this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Matto.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Sir, we in Kashmir are rice-eaters, as you all know, just like the people in your State. I had been to Kashmir recently and came only yesterday. There, Sir, last week I saw that the rice supplied there was very bad because of faulty storage arrangements. When I made enquiries. I was told